

Amendments to the Claims:

1-3 (canceled).

4. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in original data, said method comprising:

receiving original data;

receiving auxiliary information, the auxiliary information being independent of the original data;

changing the auxiliary information based on the original data; and

embedding the changed auxiliary information in the original data.

5. (currently amended): The method of claim 4 in which after said changing, ~~step~~, said method comprises encrypting the changed auxiliary information.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 in which an encryption key is stored in a database accessible by both an embedding device and a device operable to decode the embedded changed auxiliary information from the original data.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the original data comprises a plurality of segments, and the encryption key is stored within the decoding device and is the same for each of the plurality of segments.

8-13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein said embedding comprises steganographic embedding.

15. (previously presented): The method of claim 14 in which changing the auxiliary information is based upon unchanged original data bits to be purposely skipped during said embedding.

16. (previously presented): The method of claim 14 in which changing the auxiliary information is based upon original data bits which are not used for embedding when a PN sequence designates the not used original data bits as non-embedding locations.

17. (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the original data comprises a plurality of frames, and wherein said embedding includes placing the changed auxiliary information in slots located in at least one header associated with one of the frames.

18. (previously presented): The method of claim 4 wherein said embedding places the changed auxiliary information in a global header associated with the original data.

19–29 (canceled).

30. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in original data, said method comprising:

receiving original data;

receiving auxiliary information, the auxiliary information being independent of the original data;

changing the auxiliary information based on the original data, wherein said auxiliary information comprises plural-bits, and wherein said changing comprises changing at least a plurality of the plural-bits; and

embedding the changed auxiliary information in the original data.

31. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in original data, said method comprising:

receiving original data;

receiving auxiliary information, the auxiliary information being independent of the original data;

changing the auxiliary information based on the original data, wherein the

auxiliary information comprises a total number of bits, and wherein said changing does not alter the total; and

embedding the changed auxiliary information in the original data.

32. (previously presented): A method of enabling an action with embedded information, wherein the information is embedded according to the method of claim 4, said method comprising:

decoding the embedded information;
verifying the embedded information corresponds to the original data; and
enabling the action when both the embedded information corresponds to the original data and the auxiliary information permits the enabling.

33. (currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein the original data comprises a photograph, and the changed auxiliary information is embedded within the photograph, and said method further comprises printing the embedded photograph including the embedded changed auxiliary information on an identification document.

34. (currently amended): The method of claim 33, wherein the auxiliary information is changed by data within the photograph.

35. (currently amended): The method of claim 33, wherein the original data further comprises information correlated with the identification document, and the auxiliary information is changed by at least one of: i) a portion of the photograph, ii) a portion of the correlated information, and iii) a combination of a portion of the photograph and a portion of the correlated information.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the correlated information comprises at least one of a name and address.

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 17, wherein a redundant instance of the changed auxiliary information is placed in a plurality of frame headers respectively associated with the plurality of frames.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 17, wherein a first portion of the changed auxiliary information is placed into at least a first frame header, and a second portion of the changed auxiliary information is placed into at least a second and different frame header.

39. (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein the original data comprises plural bits, and said changing comprises changing the auxiliary data based at least in part on some of the plural bits.

40. (new): The method of claim 30, wherein the original data comprises a photograph, and the changed auxiliary information is embedded within the photograph, and said method further comprises printing the photograph including the embedded changed auxiliary information on an identification document

41. (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the auxiliary information is changed by data within the photograph.

42. (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the original data further comprises information correlated with the identification document, and the auxiliary information is changed by at least one of: i) a portion of the photograph, ii) a portion of the correlated information, and iii) a combination of a portion of the photograph and a portion of the correlated information.

43. (new): The method of claim 42, wherein the correlated information comprises at least one of a name and address.